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1. Leaves for Military Personnel

Contrary to the rumor that all leaves for military personnel had been cancelled as of 26 June 1950, leaves not only were granted as usual, but the MNO (Ministry of National Defense) ruled that all officers should take their accumulated leave before the end of 1950. No leave was to be carried over to the new year.

2. During the period May to September of each year, leaves are normally out for personnel assigned to headquarters and units because of summer war games. Reservists are also called to their units at this time.

3. On 26 June 1950, General Staff and Military District Headquarters were issued orders for emergency staff duty. Prior to 26 June there was one duty officer after hours (GS Corps), but since that date there have been two duty officers, one of which must be a G-2 or G-3 officer. There is also to be a duty officer in G-5, in addition to the routine officer of the day and guard officer of the individual barracks. This measure has not been abandoned, and it is believed that it will become standard procedure. The General Staff has now a permanent duty officer in each section.

4. During the last three weeks in June and the first two weeks in July leaves of the SNB-PS units stationed on the US Zone border were cancelled or limited temporarily. The reason given for this, however, was the reported attempt of small groups of "Bander" troops to cross from Czechoslovak territory into the U.S. Zone. Curtailment of SNB-PS leaves was of a local character only. The SNB unit JASAN, Special elite mission, and other SNB units took their leaves as originally scheduled.

5. No official changes were made as far as enlisted men's leave was concerned. As in previous years, leaves were granted for Easter, and Christmas furloughs are being planned according to the rotation system. However, as a means of persecuting non-Communist soldiers, the Unit Party Chapter, Education Officer or OZ Officer can recommend cancellation of leave.

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Letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
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6. Restrictions in Issuance of Passes

There were no special restrictions on the issuance of passes in connection with 26 June. As of 10 October 1950, new service regulations and discipline orders became valid. Issued in July 1950 by Minister of National Defense SHCHERBA, the regulations are practically de facto copies of the Soviet service regulations and impose considerable limitations on the soldier's privileges. Off duty passes and furloughs are to be limited. Generally speaking, all enlisted men will stay in the barracks area during week ends and will be authorized to leave the barracks only in groups accompanied by an NCO. Furloughs and 24-hour passes will be granted only to privileged and reliable Party members. Through these measures it is sought to isolate the troops from the civilian population, and it is hoped that the influence of political indoctrination and improvement of security will be increased. However, general public opinion indicates that negative results may be expected, and it is believed that desertions will increase.

7. There have been no restrictions on the issuance of passports as of 26 June. In December 1949, new passport forms were introduced and were issued for limited periods only to persons carefully screened. In April 1950, the STB and SSB were ordered to examine all passports and to withdraw all those which were no longer valid.

8. Checking of Military Travel

No military controls or special patrols were observed in connection with military travel. In the period June to September, military personnel in uniform whether on or off duty travelled by any available means without any restrictions, other than routine SSB checks.

9. Military Transport Guards

No changes in the routine system of guarding transports have been observed. The railway management handles the military transport of goods, and only traffic to maneuver areas is directed by the railway traffic personnel, but this is standing operating procedure. No military transport units exist at railroad stations.

10. Guarding of Essential Industries

Military installations, barracks and dumps are guarded as usual by army guards and patrols, while industrial plants are under factory militia guard. This applies even to factories essential to national defense, which are under military control only insofar as inspection of production is concerned. The actual guarding of specific objects is left to the workers' militia, which is considered far more reliable than the army guards.

11. Alerting of Workers' Militia

No specific alert for the militia was ordered, but in September 1950 special units of the workers' militia of Prague were called to readiness, a measure which has not yet been abandoned. There are strong indications that some workers' militia in Prague will be consolidated into one security organization of militia to be under the control of the Party Central Committee for use in emergencies.

12. Alleged Military Mission to the USSR

Since 1945, and to a greater extent, since 1948, officers and groups of men, including SSB and STB personnel have been sent to the USSR for schooling. However, there are no details available concerning the alleged preparation of military draft orders to send a five-man mission to UZGOROD and from there to the USSR.

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13. SNB Border Units

Although a cordon sanitaire is being gradually formed in the border area, it is far from complete. The situation in the border areas, as well as border area occupation, has not changed radically in the period June to September.

14. As early as 1949, some SNB-PS commanders confidentially instructed their personnel to shoot without challenge couriers seen crossing the border from the U.S. Zone. However, no such formal order was given. Since many authorized civilians still live and work in the border area, such a measure would be impracticable.

15. Instructions to Air Police Corps

No special instructions relative to checking plane flights were issued in the 26 June period. In July 1950, the SNB-PS patrols received instructions to observe territory across the border and to report on any foreign planes which were spotted and make note of any unusual happenings.

16. It may be summarily stated then, that aside from those measures mentioned in paragraphs 3 and 4 of this report, no special measures in connection with the 26th of June were taken by the army or the SNB, except those already planned before this date. Since 1949 the entire Czechoslovak Army, as well as the state apparatus, has been undergoing a series of structural changes, and in these new states of developments Soviet control is of basic importance. Outstanding changes as manifested to date are:

- a. Conversion of Czechoslovak industry since 1949 for war production in behalf of the armies of Czechoslovakia and other Eastern Bloc countries.
- b. Deliveries of Soviet T-34 and T-70 tanks, artillery and other equipment to the Czechoslovak army since 1949.
- c. The arrival in June - July 1950 of a great number of Soviet "instructors" and their assignment to General Staff, Military Districts, Army Corps, Division Headquarters, etc.
- d. The purging on 25 April 1950 of General SVOBODA and CERNICKA's succession as Minister of National Defense and the purging of General KLAPALEK, 1st Military District Commander, and the arrest of Chief of Logistics, ZATENTAL.
- e. The creation on 23 May 1950 of the new Ministry of National Security with KOPRIVA as chief.

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